



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
IHSS Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT

Nancy Barrett, Alternate
Sheila Brown
G.G. Crawley
Patricia Dotson-Moss
Nelma Fennimore
Roy A. Reynolds
Kim Risser
Randy Schlecht - Alternate
Patti Strauch
Sharon Swayzer
Brenda Travis
Caroline Von Flue

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mary Gillion
Janice Jackson – Alt.
Loretta Jemtson – Alt.
Patrick King

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Bernard Domroy
Barbara Chastain
Marcus Brown

DAAS STAFF

Colleen Krygier, Director of DAAS
Debbie Lunt, Executive Secretary II

PUBLIC AUTHORITY STAFF

Helen Lopez, Director
Rosa Hidalgo, Deputy Director
Myette Christian, Registry/Training
John Dixon, Staff Analyst II
Jessica Hoier, Staff Analyst I

ACTION(S)/MOTIONS

1. Call to order and Introductions

9:30 a.m.

2. Approve Minutes from January 5, 2011 meeting

Patty advised that she was being shown as an alternate and she should be a voting member. Also Marcus Brown was not shown as part of the public that attended the 1/5/11 meeting. Motion to approve minutes with corrections: 1st – Patty; 2nd Patricia. Motion passed – Minutes approved.

3. Additions/Changes to Agenda

Yes

Add the following under "New Business":

- Caroline would like to discuss MDT – Elder Abuse Meeting.
- Linda Nelson to discuss Training in March
- Purchasing microphone for Committee

DAAS Report will go before Public Authority Report.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

See attachments.

6. DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES REPORT (COLLEEN/G.G.)

- The way the State budget process works:

- January 10th the governor is required to submit his proposed budget to the Legislature.
- The Legislature then looks at all the proposals.
- In May (approximately) the governor does a May revise on the budget.
- The May revise is typically what everyone is discussing and negotiating.

Currently the governor has made a number

of proposals where IHSS is concerned. The difference this year is the governor wants decisions made by March. Some of the reductions he is proposing to different programs would go into effect on July 1, 2011. If the budget cuts are not made by July 1st, then the deficit will grow (heard just this week that budget deficit is up to 30 billion dollars) and the proposed cuts will not be deep enough.

- The governor would like a ballot measure in June to extend the existing tax structures which are additional taxes that were put into place that had a time limit on them.

- In DAAS we are concerned about the proposals that affect the programs and population we serve.

- Proposal to eliminate MSSP. MSSP is a small program that we administer here. We have 340 slots (each slot has a person in it). It is an intensive case management program that allows people to stay in their homes during difficult medical situations.

- Proposal to eliminate adult day health care. We do not administer this but a lot of people we work with take advantage of this.

- IHSS – effective 2/1/11, we had a 3.6% reduction in hours across the board. There are no exceptions to this. The additional 8.4% reduction there is a chance the client can appeal to their social worker. This exception will not be granted very often.

- Elimination of domestic and related services in shared living arrangements. Recipients could have this looked at stating that this would not keep them medically safe. Of our 20,000 cases we have approximately 14,000 recipients in shared living arrangements that would be affected.

- Physician Certification – a doctor's

statement would be required certifying recipient requires assistance to remain in their home. This is not a current requirement of the program; however, our county does ask for this. State believes many will not be able to provide this certification and the savings to the state could be a half billion dollars.

- County Administration proposed to be cut because we will have fewer cases and if we have fewer cases we will not need as many social workers.

- Elimination of funding for the IHSS Advisory Committee. Currently the county receives \$52,000 to support this committee. If the state eliminates this committee the county could continue without the support of the state. Ultimately, it would be up to the Board of Supervisors to decide whether to eliminate the committee or continue at local cost.

- 1115 Waiver – State waiver program that we refer to as the bridge to healthcare reform in 2014. Letters will go out in March – program starts in June – involves seniors and persons with disabilities (Medi-Cal only) will be required to enroll in managed care. People will have to make a choice by the end of their month of birth or they will be put into one. Possibly 30,000 in our county will be affected. They will be getting phone calls, packets of information and mail regarding this.

- In April (possibly 4/25) the state will be at Behavioral Health in Rialto for an open house to discuss this new information. Colleen asked the State if they would be willing to do this same kind of meeting in the high desert area and they said they would consider it.

(G.G.)

- G.G. shared a Daily Bulletin article with

everyone. It had a picture on the front page of Patty Strauch.

- 1,100 providers have not completed the new provider enrollment process. We had 68 providers whose social security numbers did not match. We are giving priority to our new providers but are trying to squeeze the old providers in the orientations. Currently (at the end of December 2010) we have 20,298 recipients on the program. This is the all time high for the program.

7. IHSS PUBLIC AUTHORITY REPORTS **(HELEN)**

- There are two things going on right now. Changes as of 2/1/11 (result of last year's budget) and proposals for current year's budget (earliest effective date would be 7/1/11).

- The governor is proposing that the deficit will be remedied by:

- Half by the proposed program cuts
- Half by the extension of the current taxes.

The fight has always been democrats on one side and republicans on the other.

Democrats want to increase taxes and not cut programs. Republicans want to cut programs and not increase taxes. We have a democratic governor and he is proposing half program cuts and half extension of taxes.

The problem this creates is that since we have a democratic governor the democrats do not have anyone to fight with. There are many people saying we will be lucky, as social services programs go, to only get the 13% or 15% in cuts.

- Notices to providers. We don't know what will happen with the proposals yet. Keep in mind it is not the provider's hours that are being cut, it is the recipient's hours that are

being cut. It is up to the recipients to decide how they want the hours to be cut between their providers. Recipients need to advise social worker if they do not want the cut in hours to be divided equally among their providers, which is how the state will most likely handle.

- 1115 Waiver – bridge to healthcare reform. This is really not about IHSS particularly; however, there is another crossover and that is with our providers who are on health benefits. It is possible if the waiver occurs that some people who are on the Public Authority Health Benefits Program might be better off with this program which is 100 percent paid for by the federal government. This would open up some slots for other providers to get on the PA health benefits.
- Clarification on Elimination of domestic and related services: If recipient lives with anyone (not just their provider) could lose domestic services.
- Physician's Certification – IHSS Physician's certification is not the same as the MSSP physician's certification.
- Helen passed out packet, including draft newsletter, letter from CICA to Legislature, changes, CICA information, research data, etc.

(ROSA)

- Information in packet is from a draft ACL – changes for July are covered in detail.
- New disqualifying codes – two tiers. Tier 1 is all the convictions that people may have had under fraud. Tier II is expanded (handout was given to all present with Tier I and Tier II information). Effective 2/1/11 any provider coming into the system must clear crimes on Tier I and Tier II. If providers have completed enrollment (finished completely

and are getting paid) prior to 2/1/11, then they are okay (will just have to clear Tier 1).

- Tier 1 - you can do an appeal but you cannot do a general exception and you cannot ask for a waiver.
- Tier II - you can ask for an appeal, you can ask for a general exception or a waiver but this is all up to the state.

The state actually created a new unit called CBCB (Caregiver Background Criminal Bureau). All the general exceptions will go to this unit. The individual waiver will be handled locally (the recipient is the one who has to ask for this waiver).

- Some people have asked for an expungement – these are not good for Tier I. We can accept for Tier II except for ones stated on form that was passed out.

- The old clearance letters that providers received are no longer effective as of 2/1/11. Now they will need to be checked for Tier II clearance. Person will not need to get fingerprints again if PA has DOJ report but will need a different type of letter. PA will not be getting out any clearance letters until they review them (they will not be called clearance letters any longer – haven't decided on name yet).

(MYETTE)

- There are some Registry statistics that might be interesting on Page 3 of the newsletter. The Registry has approximately 1,300 providers – 198 are new providers. The Registry is accepting applications. The Registry is waiving the six month requirement of care giving to be a provider if the provider is willing to take the nine (9) week caregiver training class.

- We created a new way for providers to update. Providers are required to update

monthly. The third time they do not update as required, they are removed from the Registry.

- Recipients can request a provider list as often as they need one. Recipient will remain on the Registry and they do not have to update. Registry person may ask for updated information when you call in for a list.

(JOHN)

- Training – right now training is going on in San Bernardino and Victorville. In March PA hopes to have training in Rancho, Victorville and San Bernardino.

- Health Benefits - 1,350 people currently have health benefits. There are 1,144 people on the waiting list to get health benefits.

Hopefully the waiver reform will help with the health benefit situation. There are certain guidelines. The current SEIU contract expires in June - the normal process is we go into negotiations at this time. Since everyone knows there is no money, there has been no request for negotiations. The health benefits should continue; however, dollars will probably not increase. April will be the end of our first year with Select Benefits and there will be a review of our current premiums.

There is a possibility that the premium will go down a little bit. If that happens we may be able to get a few more people health benefits.

(JESSICA)

- Jessica is the Customer Service Coordinator (including the paycheck coordinator).

- Paycheck line had approximately 11,000 calls for December and January.

- Helen is going to check on getting more magnets that had the paycheck telephone

number on them.

8. BREAK (10:55 – 11:10)

9. Committee Reports

Legislation

Please see attached handouts from Caroline and Kim.

FINANCE (PATTY)

- Patty did not receive a copy of finance information. We did not ever receive the order we wanted placed last year so we will probably need to re-order that if we still want the items. If anyone would like to go to a seminar, be sure and ask.

NOTE: Anyone that needs Ethics Training should contact G.G. A training time will be set up after one of the meetings in Conference Room D so you can bring your lunch while you watch the video. You can also do your Ethics Training on line.

NOTE: Please do not have side conversations or shuffle papers while people are speaking – it can be very difficult to hear.

GOALS, OUTREACH & AWARENESS

(G.G.)

- No meeting was held. The committee is waiting for the training meeting (hopefully in March) so they can set goals for the committee to work towards.

10. OLD BUSINESS

None

11. NEW BUSINESS

- Randy suggested that we buy a microphone to use for meetings – cost not to exceed \$500.00.

- Caroline discussed MDT handout.

- Linda was unable to attend meeting so training for March was not discussed.

NOTE: G.G. advised that everyone would be

Helen will have someone check on ordering more magnets with the paycheck telephone number on it.

Motion to buy microphone, not to exceed \$500.00 for committee meetings.

1st Caroline; 2nd Roy. Motion carried.

notified by mail if we are going to do training in March to discuss goals and objectives.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion for adjournment – 1st – Patty
2nd – Roy

Meeting adjourned 11:45 a.m.

Information will be sent to Linda Nelson to check on purchase.